6th April 1953]

SRI S. NARAYANAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(a) whether Area Committees have been formed in this State and, if so, how many of them are functioning; and

(b) what are the statutory functions of the Area Committees?

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" (a) Area Committees have been formed in this State. There are 20 Area Committees and all of them are functioning.

" (b) The Area Committees have jurisdiction over temples (other than those notified under Chapter VI of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951) with an annual income of less than Rs. 20,000.

Their statutory functions mainly relate to the following :—

(i) To appoint trustees for the religious institutions;

(ii) to scrutinize and forward to the Commissioner the section 25 register containing the names of the past and present trustees, particulars of schemes of administration, particulars of endowments, etc.;

(iii) to scrutinize and forward to the Commissioner annual statements showing the alterations or additions or omissions to the register;

(iv) to inspect the property and documents of religious institutions;

(v) to approve the standard scales of expenditure for the religious institutions;

(vi) to approve the budget of the religious institutions;

(vii) to scrutinize and forward to the Commissioner the audit report of the religious institutions;

(viii) they are also empowered to exercise the powers and duties imposed by a court scheme on any court or Judge or any other body of persons not being a trustee or paid or honorary officer or the servants of religious institutions; and

(ix) to appoint and control executive officers of the religious institutions."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. SPEAKER.

(1) MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House the following message received from the Governor of Madras, dated 4th April 1953 :—

'In pursuance of Article 207, clause (1), read with Article 199 (1) of the Constitution of India, I, Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, hereby give my recommendation to the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Tobacco (Taxation of Sales and Registration) Bill, 1953, and in pursuance of clause (3) of Article 207, I also recommend to that Assembly the consideration of the said Bill.'